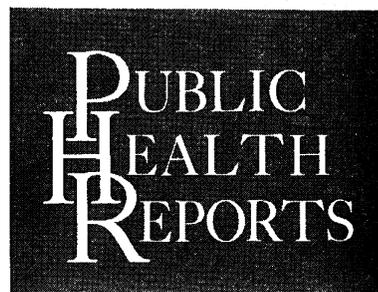




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TOKUHATA, GEORGE K. (Public Health Service), and LILIENFELD, A. M.: Familial aggregation of lung cancer among hospital patients. *Public Health Reports, Vol. 78, April 1963, pp. 277-283.*

An epidemiologic study of the familial aggregation of lung cancer in the white population was conducted at the Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Buffalo, N.Y. The mortality experience of the relatives of 361 lung cancer patients was compared with that of 722 noncancerous patients used as controls and matched for sex, age, admission year, and size of community. To determine the presence of familial aggregation while adjusting for the effects of age, sex, and generation factors, the observed mortality of the case relatives was compared with the mortality of the same relatives which would be expected if the experience of the control relatives prevailed. The cause of death among relatives was taken from death certificates.

Analyses of the data indicate that there was a significant excess in the lung cancer mortality among case relatives. This excess mortality was accounted for by female relatives. No such relationship was found among spouses of the index subjects of the two groups being compared. Familial aggregation of lung cancer as observed in this study may be attributed to genetic or environmental factors common to family members. Although the effect of cigarette smoking among the relatives being compared was not taken into account in this study, the major finding was consistent with that of another study conducted by the same authors in which the smoking factor was considered.

MacMAHON, BRIAN (Harvard University School of Public Health), JOHNSON, SAMUEL, and PUGH, THOMAS F.: Relation of suicide rates to social conditions: Evidence from U.S. Vital Statistics. *Public Health Reports, Vol. 78, April 1963, pp. 285-293.*

U.S. vital statistics are reviewed for evidence as to the existence and nature of social conditions related to high suicide rates. Several observations—a divergence of male and female rates with increasing age after middle age, similarity of rates for Negroes and whites in the north more striking for males than for females, and greater fluctuation of male than female rates in response to

changing social conditions over time—suggest that the social role of the male is an important determinant of suicide rates among that sex. Since the occupational role of the male is dependent on the availability of employment, the observations indicate that during periods in which this role is difficult to fulfill, as during periods of high unemployment, suicide rates tend to rise.

The nature of a paper, not its importance or significance, determines whether a synopsis is printed. See "Information for Contributors" on next page.

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Help Fight Syphilis

New syphilis in persons under age 20 has increased more than 190 percent since 1956.

<i>Calendar year</i>	<i>Number reported</i>	<i>Percent increase over 1956</i>
1956	1, 179	----
1957	1, 305	10. 7
1958	1, 341	13. 7
1959	1, 749	48. 3
1960	2, 736	132. 1
1961	3, 460	193. 5

The following are representative annual costs:

Deaths known to be due to syphilis-----	3, 000
Maintenance of syphilitic blind-----	\$6, 000, 000
Hospitalization of syphilitic insane-----	\$49, 000, 000

If persons infected with syphilis are not found and treated:

- 1 in 200 will go blind.
- 1 in 44 will become insane.
- 1 in 25 will be crippled or incapacitated.
- 1 in 13 will develop heart disease.

Finding persons infected with VD and bringing them to treatment is essential to control of the disease.

One method is called contact tracing. When syphilis is diagnosed, the patient is asked to name all persons from whom the disease might have been contracted and to whom it might have been passed. This information is kept in strict confidence.

Recently, venereal disease specialists have begun to trace the disease through a

patient's associates as well as through specified sex contacts, because many of these associates also are infectious.

The Communicable Disease Center, Public Health Service, Atlanta 22, Ga., offers guidance and personnel for casefinding programs as well as an arsenal of material for educational services.